

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DJIBOU 00669 060839Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SY-05 MCT-01  
HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
/103 W  
-----064785 061325Z /44

R 060704Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 444  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 0669

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDIP, PINS, PGOV, EAID, DJ, FR  
SUBJ: FRANCO-DJIBOUTIAN RELATIONS AFTER THE MOST RECENT  
TERRORIST INCIDENT

REF: A. DJIBOUTI 0646, B. DJIBOUTI 0525, C. DJIBOUTI 0589

1. AFTER THE KILLINGS OF A FRENCH PILOT IN TADJOURA ON  
OCT 16 (DJIBOUTI 0525), THE MURDER OF A TEACHER AND THE  
SERIOUS WOUNDING OF HIS WIFE AT GALAFI (DJIBOUTI 0646),  
FRANCO-DJIBOUTIAN RELATIONS ARE A LOW POINT. AS A  
RESULT OF THE LATTER INCIDENT, ALL FRENCH TECHNICAL  
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PERSONNEL WERE WITHDRAWN FROM THE NORTH OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
DJIBOUTI, OTHER THAN CERTAIN "INDUSTRIAL" INVESTIGATIONS  
IN THE REGION OF LAKE ASSAL. THESE LATTER RESEARCHES WERE  
DEFINED FOR THE EMBASSY AS CERTAIN ONGOING STUDIES OF  
POSSIBLE SALT AND LIMESTON (FOR CEMENT) DEPISITS TO WHICH  
THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHES CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE. SERVICE  
IN TADJOURA AND IN OBOCK (WHERE A FOREIGN LEGION COMPANY

REMAINS) FOR FRENCH PERSONNEL HAS NOW BEEN MADE VOLUNTARY.

2. TRAVELERS FROM FRANCE INDICATE THAT PUBLIC REACTION THERE HAS BEEN VERY STRONG IN CIRCLES THAT FOLLOW THE AFFAIRS OF FORMER COLONIES. CERTAIN FAIRLY RELIABLE SOURCES REPORT SHARP REACTION IN LABOR CIRCLES, WHERE THE CONDITIONS OF TEACHERS ARE ALWAYS CLOSELY FELT.

3. SOME FRENCH TEACHERS HAVE RETURNED TO FRANCE ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE 28 TEACHERS WHO WERE RETURNED TO DJIBOUTI ON 29 NOVEMBER WILL BE GIVEN CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS IN THE OVERCROWDED AND UNDER-STAFFED SCHOOLS IN THE CAPITAL (AVERAGE CLASS SIZE IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS IS BETWEEN 55 & 60). WE HAVE HEARD REPORTS THAT CERTAIN FRENCH TRADESMEN OF SMALL AND/OR MARGINAL ENTERPRISES ARE NOW CLOSING UP THEIR AFFAIRS PRIOR TO RETURNING TO FRANCE. BEFORE THE RECENT INCIDENT, THERE WERE REPORTEDLY 350 FRENCH COOPERATION PERSONNEL IN DJIBOUTI.

4. THE PRESENT SITUATION APPEARS TO BE FOLLOWING A SCENARIO DESCRIBED BY THE EMBASSY SEVERAL MONTHS AGO IN WHICH THE UNDERTAIN RESOLVE OF THE FRENCH TO REMAIN IN DJIBOUTI WOULD BE TESTED BY TERRORIST ATTACK ON FRENCH CIVILIANS. SUCH ATTACKS COULD LEAD TO STRONG SHIFT IN PUBLIC OPINION IN FRANCE TO OPPOSITION TO EXPOSING FRENCH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PRESENCE TO  
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INVOLVEMENT IN CIVIL STRIFE. THE EFFECT OF THE REMOVAL OF FRENCH MILITARY PRESENCE IN DJIBOUTI WOULD MOST PROBABLY BE TOTAL COLLAPSE OF CIVIL AUTHORITY AND SUBSEQUENT TAKEOVER BY EITHER ONE NEIGHBOR OR BOTH AND PROBABLY EXTENSION OF THE OGADEN WAR TO THE BAB EL MANDEB.

5. THE EMBASSY AT PARIS IS REQUESTED TO FORWARD ANY RECENT VIEWS ON THE FRENCH RESOLVE TO REMAIN IN DJIBOUTI.  
CLARKE

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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